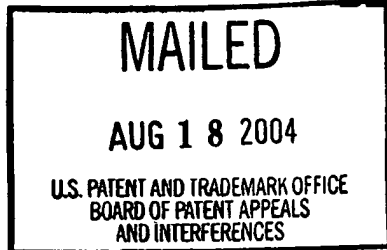


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Ex parte CHRISTINE ANN MUELLER

Application No. 09/837,932

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on July 21, 2004. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being electronically returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

There is no indication on the record that the examiner signed the Examiner's Answer. Appropriate correction is required.

There is no proper indication on the record that the conference was held. In accordance with MPEP § 1208 regarding appeal conferences:

On the examiner's answer, below the primary examiner's signature, the word "Conferees" should be included, followed by the typed or printed names of the other two appeal conference participants. These two appeal conference participants must place their initials next to their name. This will make the record clear that an appeal conference has been held.

Appropriate correction is required.

Application No. 09/837,932

A request for oral hearing was filed on April 8, 2004. This paper was not entered into the Patent Application Location and Monitoring system (PALM). This needs to be done.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner to 1) sign the Examiner's Answer, 2) hold an appeal conference, 3) notify appellants in writing that the appeal conference was held, 4) enter the request for oral hearing into the PALM system and 5) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

By: 

DALE M. SHAW
Program and Resource Administrator
(703) 308-9797

cc: Forrest L. Collins
Post Office Box 41040
Brecksville, OH 44141-0040

DMS/eld
RA04-0740